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Analysis of responses to occupational survey card, sent to all alumni, which showed that very few professionals switch line of work. Data broken down into professions (education, engineering, nursing, pharmacy), sex, marital status of women.

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Administrative
and Curricular Research

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CURRENT OCCUPATIONS OF WAYNE'S PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED GRADUATES

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There appears to be a growing apprehension in this country that many professionally trained personnel who have graduated from our colleges and universities are not remaining in the professions of their training. For Wayne State University, however, a follow-up study of the alumni of four of its professional colleges shows that a surprising number of those graduating during the thirty-year period of 1925-1954 are still active in the professions for which they prepared.

The Alumni Office of the University, seeking to discover the present occupations of its alumni, sent, in the Fall of 1955, an occupational survey card to all alumni. The responses to this survey, printed on a McBee Keysort Card,

TABLE I

PERCENT OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE BY ALUMNI FROM FOUR PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Year of Graduation[a]	Education		Engineering		Nursing		Pharmacy	
	Graduates	Percent Response	Graduates	Percent Responses	Graduates	Percent Responses	Graduates	Percent Responses
1950-54	3021	47	748	59	261	39	286	48
1945-49	1744	47	351	55	210	60	122	33
1940-44	1777	36	227	49	54	15	113	34
1935-39	1848	28	181	49	26	19	63	33
1930-34	1582	23	73	48	0	0	97	13
1925-29	450	33	0	0	0	0	50	18
Total Graduates	10422		1580		551		731	
Percent of Responses		37		55		50		35

[a]Year of baccalaureate degree

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were coded by the Alumni Office, using a code patterned after the system of occupational codes found in the United States Dictionary of Occupational Codes.

Over this thirty-year period there were graduated from these four colleges, 10,422 teachers, 1580 engineers, 551 nurses and 731 pharmacists. Responses to the Alumni Office survey card were received from 55 percent of the engineering graduates, 50 percent of the nursing graduates, 37 percent of the education graduates and 35 percent of the pharmacy graduates.

Analysis of the returned survey cards indicates that once an individual completes his training, he is not prone to leave his profession for another type

TABLE II

OCCUPATIONS OF WAYNE'S GRADUATES
IN CLASSES OF 1925-1954

	PERCENT						
	1925-29	1930-34	1935-39	1940-44	1945-49	1950-54	Total
EDUCATION							
Teachers	57	64	67	59	64	79	69
Other Occupations	7	6	4	9	8	7	7
Not Working	35	30	29	33	28	15	24
Number of Responses	150	358	510	637	815	1428	3898
ENGINEERING							
Engineers	0	79	89	88	88	84	85
Other Occupations	0	19	10	12	11	8	10
Not Working	0	3	1	1	1	9	5
Number of Responses	0	37	88	113	194	435	867
NURSING							
Nurses	0	0	80	25	55	74	64
Other Occupations	0	0	0	0	2	6	3
Not Working	0	0	20	75	42	20	35
Number of Responses	0	0	5	8	125	140	278
PHARMACY							
Pharmacists	67	69	67	67	77	83	77
Other Occupations	22	8	14	26	4	4	10
Not Working	11	23	19	8	19	13	14
Number of Responses	9	13	21	39	48	128	258

of work. Only 7 percent of the teachers trained during the thirty-year period (Table II) indicated that they have turned to other occupations. Ten percent of the engineers and pharmacists have changed occupations while very few nurses (3 percent) have transferred to other occupational fields.

Study of these same data by sex shows a high degree of consistency in the responses of the women in the three professions which have women graduates (Table III). Nursing, which is almost exclusively a woman's profession, still

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN GRADUATES
FROM THREE PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES
1925-1954

	PERCENT						
	1925-29	1930-34	1935-39	1940-44	1945-49	1950-54	Total
EDUCATION							
Teachers	52	62	63	57	57	79	65
Other Occupations	5	3	2	3	4	2	3
Not Working	43	35	36	40	39	19	32
Number of Responses	119	296	403	516	578	947	2859
NURSING							
Nurses	0	0	80	25	55	74	64
Other Occupations	0	0	0	0	2	4	3
Not Working	0	0	20	75	42	22	33
Number of Responses	0	0	5	8	125	140	278
PHARMACY							
Pharmacists	0	100	20	70	40	93	65
Other Occupations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Working	0	0	80	30	60	7	35
Number of Responses	0	3	5	10	15	15	48

has 64 percent of its graduates active in the profession and only 3 percent in other work. Almost a third are not employed. Education, with more than two-thirds of the responses from women, had almost the same figures, i.e., 65 percent still teaching, 3 percent in other occupations, and 32 percent not working. Although the number of

responses from women pharmacy graduates is smaller than from either nursing or education graduates, the data are almost identical - 65 percent in the profession, none in other occupations, and 35 percent not employed.

The United States Department of Labor's survey on the working woman[a] indicates that only one out of four women quits her job when she marries. Most prefer to wait until the arrival of the first child to cease employment. For Wayne's women education graduates, out of college from one to five years, 76 percent indicated marriage (Table IV) but only 19 percent of all women in this same group said they were not working. Only a slightly higher percent (80) of

TABLE IV

MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THREE PROFESSIONAL COLLGGES RESPONDING TO QUESTIONNAIRE

Year of Graduation	PERCENT MARRIED		
	Education	Nursing	Pharmacy
1950-54	76	49	73
1945-49	80	65	87
1940-45	80	75	80
1935-37	73	60	80
1930-34	52	0	100
1925-29	53	0	0
All Classes	74	71	81

those graduated from 5 to 10 years said they were married, but the percent "not working" increased to 39. Approximately 40 percent of the respondents who graduated during the earlier periods also indicated they are not employed.

Comparisons of nursing and pharmacy women graduates showed 49 percent of the nursing graduates in the first five-year period married and 22 percent not working, while 73 percent of the women pharmacy graduates are married and only 7 percent are not working.

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[a]Spotlight on Women in the United States, U. S. Department of Labor, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1957.

Responses from the men graduates of the Colleges of Education, Engineering and Pharmacy (Table V) also show that a high percentage of the men are remaining in

TABLE V

OCCUPATIONS OF MEN GRADUATES FROM
THREE PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES
1925-1954

	PERCENT						
	1925-29	1930-34	1935-39	1940-44	1945-49	1950-54	Total
EDUCATION							
Teachers	78	74	84	66	81	77	77
Other Occupations	16	19	15	33	18	17	19
Not Working	7	6	1	1	1	7	19
Number of Responses	31	62	107	121	237	481	1039
ENGINEERING							
Engineers	0	81	90	88	88	84	86
Other Occupations	0	19	10	12	11	8	10
Not Working	0	0	0	1	1	9	5
Number of Responses	0	37	88	113	194	435	867
PHARMACY							
Pharmacists	67	60	81	66	94	81	80
Other Occupations	22	30	19	35	6	4	12
Not Working	11	10	0	0	0	14	9
Number of Responses	9	10	16	29	33	113	210

their professions. For the five-year period of 1950-54 there are still 77 percent of the male teachers, 81 percent of the male pharmacists and 84 percent of the engineers active in their respective professions. Only 17 percent of the teachers, 4 percent of the pharmacists and 8 percent of the engineers turned to other professions. Further college work and service in the armed forces are mainly responsible for the remaining few who indicated "no employment".

Considering all the male graduates from Wayne State University for this thirty-year period as a whole shows a pattern which is most revealing, and quite contrary to the popular notion of what is happening to professional graduates. There are 80 percent of the pharmacists, and 77 percent of the College of Education graduates, and 86 percent of the engineers still active in their professions.

Preliminary findings of a recent survey of new teachers by the United States Office of Education[a] indicate that half the students entering the teaching profession in 1956 expect to stop teaching within five years. This may be their intent, but at Wayne it was found that 62 percent of the women and 74 percent of the men who graduated from the College of Education during the period of 1930-34 and who responded to this survey are still active in the teaching profession.

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[a]Reported in the New York Times, October 31, 1957.